

# **Akathist for the Repose of the Departed**

**St Mary's Byzantine  
Catholic Church,  
Hillsborough NJ**

**Adult Education Series**

(Begin with the usual introductory prayers)

### KONTAKION 1

You Who by Your inscrutable Providence prepare the world for eternal beatitude and Who appointed times and seasons and the manner of our end: Forgive, O Lord, those who have died in past ages all their sins, receive them into the realms of light and joy, open Your Fatherly arms to them, and hear us who celebrate their memory and sing:

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember your servants who have fallen asleep.

### IKOS 1

O You Who saved Adam and the whole human race from eternal perdition, You send Your Son into the world, O Good God, and by His Cross and Resurrection You have granted us also eternal life. Trusting to Your infinite mercy, we look for the deathless Kingdom of Your Glory, we implore You to grant it to those who have fallen asleep, and we pray: Gladden, O Lord, souls wearied by the storms of life, that earth's sorrows and signings may not bury them in oblivion. Hear them, O Lord, in Your bosom, as a mother responds to her children, and say to them: Your sins are forgiven you. Receive them, O Lord, into Your calm and blessed haven that they may rejoice in Your divine glory.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 2

Enlightened by the illumination of the Most High, Saint Macarius heard a voice from a pagan skull: "When you pray for those suffering in Hell, there is relief for the heathen." O wonderful power of Christian prayer, by which even the infernal regions are illumined! Both believers and unbelievers receive comfort when we cry for the whole world: ALLELUIA.

## IKOS 2

Saint Isaac the Syrian once said: "A merciful heart is one that burns with love for men and animals and for the whole of creation, and at all times offers prayers with tears that they may be purified and kept." Likewise we all boldly ask the Lord for help for all the dead from the beginning of time and cry: Send down to us, O Lord, the gift of fervent prayer for the dead. Remember, O Lord, all who have charged us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them, and pardon the sins they have forgotten. Remember, O Lord, all who have been buried without prayer. Receive, O Lord, into Your dwellings all who have died of sorrow or joy by a sudden or untimely death.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

### KONTAKION 3

We are to blame for the calamities in the world, for the sufferings of dumb creatures, and for the diseases and torments of innocent children, for through the fall of man the beatitude and beauty of all creation has been marred. O Christ our God, greatest of innocent Sufferers! You alone canst forgive all. Forgive, then, all and everything, and grant to the world its primordial prosperity, that the living and the dead may rejoice and cry: ALLELUIA.

### IKOS 3

O Glad Light, Redeemer of the world, embracing the whole universe with Your love: behold, Your cry from the Cross for Your enemies is heard: "Father, forgive them." In the name of Your all-forgiving love we make bold to pray to our Heavenly Father for the eternal repose of Your enemies and ours. Forgive, O Lord, those who have shed innocent blood, those who have sown our path of life with sorrows, and those who have waded to prosperity through the tears of their neighbors. Condemn not, O Lord, those who persecute us with slander and malice. Repay with mercy those whom we have wronged or offended through ignorance, and grant that our prayer for them may be holy through the sacrament of reconciliation.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

#### KONTAKION 4

Save, O Lord, those who have died in grievous sufferings, those who were murdered, those buried alive, those who were drowned or burned, those who were torn by wild beasts, those who died of hunger or cold, from exposure in storms, or by falling from heights, and grant them all eternal joy for the sorrow of their death. May the time of their suffering be blessed as a day of redemption, for which they sing: ALLELUIA.

#### IKOS 4

Recompense with the compassion of Your infinite love, O Lord, all who have died in the full flush of their youth, who received on earth the thorny crown of suffering, who never experienced earthly joy. Grant recompense to those who died from overwork, through exploitation or sweated labor. Receive, O Lord, into the bridal halls of Paradise boys and girls, and grant them joy at the marriage supper of Your Son. Comfort and console the grief of parents over their dead children. Give rest, O Lord, to all who have no one to offer prayer for them to You, their Creator, that their sins may vanish in the dazzling light of Your forgiveness.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 5

You have given us death as a last prodigy to bring us to our senses and to repentance, O Lord. In its threatening light, earthly vanity is exposed, carnal passions and sufferings become subdued, in submissive reason is humbled. Eternal justice and righteousness opens to our gaze, and then the godless and those burdened with sins confess on their deathbed Your real and eternal existence and cry to Your mercy: ALLELUIA.

## IKOS 5

O Father of all consolation and comfort, You brighten with the sun, delight with fruits, and gladden with the beauty of the world both Your friends and enemies. And we believe that even beyond the grave Your loving kindness, which is merciful even to all rejected sinners, does not fail. We grieve for hardened and wicked blasphemers of Your Holiness. May Your saving and gracious will be over them. Forgive, O Lord, those who have died without repentance. Save those who have committed suicide in the darkness of their mind, that the flame of their sinfulness may be extinguished in the ocean of Your grace.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 6

Terrible is the darkness of a soul separated from God, the torments of conscience, the gnashing of teeth, the unquenchable fire and the undying worm. I tremble at the thought of such a fate, and I pray for those suffering in Hell as for myself. May our song descend upon them as refreshing dew as we sing: ALLELUIA.

## IKOS 6

Your light, O Christ our God, has shone upon those sitting in the darkness and shadow of death and those in Hell who cannot cry to You. Descend into the infernal regions of the earth, O Lord, and bring out into the joy of grace Your children who have been separated from You by sin but who have not rejected You. For they suffer cruelly. Have mercy on them. For they sinned against Heaven and before You, and their sins are infinitely grievous, and Your mercy is infinite. Visit the bitter misery of souls separated from You. Have mercy, O Lord, on those who hated the truth out of ignorance. May Your love be to them not a consuming fire but the coolness of Paradise:

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 7

Endeavoring to give help by Your might power to Your servants who have fallen asleep, You have appeared to their loved ones, O Lord, in mysterious visions clearly inspiring them to pray, that they may remember the departed, and do

good works and labors of faith and love for them, crying: ALLELUIA.

## IKOS 7

The universal Church of Christ unceasingly offers prayers every hour for the departed throughout the world, for the sins of the world are washed away by the most pure Blood of Your divine crown, and the souls of those who have fallen asleep are translated from death to life and from earth to Heaven by the power of the prayers offered for them at God's altars. May the intercession of the Church for the dead, O Lord, be a ladder to Heaven. Have mercy on them, O Lord, through the intercession of the most holy Mother of God and all the Saints. Forgive them their sins for the sake of Your faithful who cry day and night to You. For the sake of innocent children, O Lord, have mercy on their parents, and by the tears of their mothers, forgive the sins of their children. For the sake of the prayers of innocent sufferers and the blood of martyrs, spare and have mercy on sinners. Receive, O Lord, our prayers and alms as a memorial of their virtues.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 8

The whole world is a sacred and common graveyard, for in every place is the dust of our



fathers and brothers. O Christ our God, Who alone unchangeably loves us, forgive all who have died from the beginning till now, that they may sing with infinite love: ALLELUIA.

## IKOS 8

The day is coming, as a burning furnace, the great and terrible day of the Last Judgment, when the secrets of men will be revealed and the books of conscience will be torn apart. "Be reconciled with God!" cries the Apostle Paul. "Be reconciled before that terrible day." Help us, O Lord, to fill up with the tears of the living what was lacking in the dead. May the sound of the Angel's trumpet, O Lord, be to them the glad announcement of their salvation and the joyful manumission of their freedom at the hour of Your judgment. Crown with glory those who have suffered for You, O Lord, and cover the sins of the weak with Your goodness. O Lord, Who knows all by name, remember those who have sought salvation in the monastic life. Remember the blessed pastors with their spiritual children.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

## KONTAKION 9

Bless swiftly passing time. For every hour, every moment brings eternity nearer. A new sorrow, a new gray hair are heralds of the coming world, witnesses of earthly corruption, for all is passing (they tell us) and the Eternal kingdom draws near,

where there is no sorrow, no sighing, no tears, but joyful singing: ALLELUIA.

### IKOS 9

Just as a tree loses its leaves after a time, so our days after a certain number of years come to an end. The festival of youth fades, the lamp of joy goes out, the alienation and dispossession of old age approaches. Friends and relations die. Where are you, young merrymakers? Their tombs are silent, but their souls are in Your hand. Let us think how they watch us form the spiritual world. O Lord, Who art the brightest Sun, illumine and warm the abodes of those who have fallen asleep. May the time of our bitter separation pass forever. Grant us a joyful meeting in Heaven. Grant that all may be one with You, O Lord. Restore to the departed, O Lord, the purity of childhood and the genial spirit of youth, and may eternal life be to them a Paschal Festival.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

### KONTAKION 10

Shedding silent tears at the graves of our relatives, we pray with hope, and cry expectantly: Tell us, O Lord, that their sins are forgiven. Give our spirit a secret assurance of it that we may sing: ALLELUIA.

### IKOS 10

Looking back, I see the whole of our past life. What a vast multitude of people have departed from the first day until now! And many of them have done me good. In gratitude for what I owe them, with love I cry to You: Grant heavenly glory, O Lord, to my parents and those near and dear to me who watched over my cradle in childhood, and reared and educated me. Glorify, O Lord, in the presence of the Holy Angels all who have told me the glad tidings of salvation and have taught me what is right and good, just and true by the holy example of their lives. Fill with delight, O Lord, those who fed me on hidden manna in the days of my sorrow and affliction. Recompense and save all benefactors and all who have helped others personally and by prayer.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

#### KONTAKION 11

O death, where is Your sting? Where is the gloom and terror that held sway in the past? From now on You art the longed for means of inseparable union with God. Oh, the great peace of the mystical Sabbath! We long to die and to be with Christ, cries the Apostle. Therefore, we too look upon death as the gateway to eternal life, and cry: ALLELUIA.

#### IKOS 11

The dead will rise and those who are in the graves will stand up, and those who are alive on earth will exult when they stand with their spiritual bodies, radiantly glorified and incorrupt. Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord: "I will bring upon you a spirit of life, and will lay sinews upon you; and I will bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin." Rise out of the ancient past, you who are redeemed by the Blood of the Son of God, restored to life by His death, for the light of the Resurrection has dawned upon you. Open to them now, O Lord, the whole abyss of Your perfections. You have shone upon them with the light of the sun and moon, that they may see the glory of the radiant choirs of Angels, You have delighted them with the magnificence of the heavenly lights of East and West, that they may also see the never-setting light of Your Divinity.

O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

#### KONTAKION 12

Flesh and blood will not inherit the Kingdom of God. While we live in the flesh, we are separated from Christ. And if we die, we live for eternity. For our corruptible body must put on incorruption, and this mortal nature must shine with immortality, that in the light of the eternal day we may sing: ALLELUIA.

#### IKOS 12

We expect to meet the Lord, we expect the clear dawn of the Resurrection, we expect the rousing from their tombs of our dead relatives and acquaintances and their restoration to the most holy beauty of life. And we rejoice in the coming transfiguration of all creation, and cry to our Creator: O Lord, Who created the world for the triumph of joy and goodness, Who have restored us to holiness from the depths of sin, grant that the dead may reign in the new creation, and may shine as heavenly lights in the day of their glory. May the Divine Lamb be their perpetual light. Grant, O Lord, that we too may celebrate with them a deathless Passover. Unite the dead and the living in unending joy. O Lord of unutterable Love, remember Your servants who have fallen asleep.

### KONTAKION 13

O most merciful and eternal Father, Whose will it is that all should be saved, Who send Your Son to the lost and pour out Your Life-giving Spirit: Have mercy on our relatives and those who are near and dear to us who have fallen asleep, and on all who have died throughout the ages; forgive and save them, and by their intercession visit us, that with them we may shout to You, our God and Savior, the song of victory: ALLELUIA. (3 times)

Then the First Ikos and Kontakion.

**PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP**

O God of spirits and all flesh, Who have trampled down death, overthrown the devil, and given life to Your world: Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep, Our Holy Father, Metropolitans, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, and all who have served You in Your Church; the founders of all Churches and Monasteries, and all of our true-believing forefathers, fathers, brothers and sisters who lie here and everywhere; officers and men of the armies and navies who have laid down their lives for their Faith and country, all the faithful killed in civil wars, all who were drowned, burned, frozen to death, torn by wild beasts, all who died suddenly without repentance and had no time to be reconciled with the Church and with their enemies; all who took their own lives in a moment of mental unbalance; all who have asked us to pray for them, and those who have no one to pray for them, and all who died without a Christian burial, (NAMES), in a place of light, in a place of refreshment, in a place of repose, whence all suffering, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. Forgive every sin committed by them in thought, word and deed, for You are the good God and Lover of men. For there is no one who lives without sinning. You alone art without sin, and Your righteousness in eternal righteousness, and Your Word is Truth. For You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your servants who have fallen asleep (NAMES), O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your Eternal Father, and Your Holy and Good and Life-giving Spirit, both now and ever and forever. Amen

**(Conclude with usual ending prayers)**

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The contents were adopted from <http://akathistcollections.blogspot.com/2011/11/akathist-hymn-to-nativity-of-christ.html>